period, July 1999 to June, 2000. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line is 1998 are not available. However, comparing two latest estimates, it is observed that the percentage of people living below the poverty line declined from 38.86% in 1987-88 to 35.97% in 1993-94.

(c) There is a three pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth. (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health nutrition meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker section of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Consumption Power of Family Units

2421. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the total number of family units in the country;

(b) the number of rich, middle class and the poor families are there among them, category-wise: and

(c) the consumption power of rich, middle-class and the poor families, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Using the household size in rural and urban areas, obtained from the National sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round (July 1993 to June 1994) and the projected population of the year, the number of households in the country in 1993-94 is estimated as 186.68 million.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line from the large sample surveys on consumer expenduture conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. As per the latest available estimate of poverty based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the large survey of 50th Round (July 1993 to June 1994). 35.97% of the population lived below the poverty line. Using the family size of 5.495 persons in rural

areas and 5.470 persons in urban areas. This translates into 31.27% of families or 58.37 million families below the poverty line in 1993-94. The remaining 128.31 million families were above the poverty line Separate estimates for rich and middle class are not available.

(c) The average per capita monthly consumption of people below the poverty line in 1993-94 was Rs. 159.18 in rural areas and Rs. 212.82 in urban areas as compared to Rs. 354.01 and Rs. 575.36 in rural and urban areas respectively for people above the poverty line. Separate estimates for ruch and middle class are not available.

Planning Commission's inability to provide projection

2422. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has expressed its inability to provide the projections for plan and non-plan revenue expenditure of States by March, 2000 to 11th Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) what Are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The Finance Commission is an independent constitutional body, entitled to recommend Central transfers to states based on its own projections of the revenue and expenditure of states.

Cause of Industrial Backwardness in Meghalaya

2423. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of entrepreneurship, infrastructure deficiency,